

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
January 11, 2006**

Note: The next IWMT meeting (January 25) will be held at the EOC (TA-69, Building 33) in the Fire Tac Room (124).

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) noted that numerous fires have been burning in Oklahoma, Texas, southern Colorado, and eastern New Mexico. Also, Los Alamos Defensible Space Day will be held April 19. For further information, contact Susan DiMauro (505-681-2358).

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) announced that fuels are extremely dry. Fuel moistures in all size categories are less than 10 percent.

Manny L'Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) reported that fire road maintenance begins next week. Currently, all fire roads have been marked. Also, some of the fire suppression equipment has been removed from winter storage. Chipping of log decks at DX has also begun.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has begun his duties on the Association for Fire Ecology Board of Directors. The AFE will send a representative, Mike Medler, to the Wildland Fire Policy Summit that will be held in Washington D.C. in February. Contact Randy (505-665-1270) if you would like to submit input for consideration at this summit.

Kristen Honig (Site Planning and Project Initiation Group, LANL) described orthophotography that has recently been obtained for 140 square miles of LANL and portions of the surrounding Los Alamos County. The original aerial photos were obtained on May 20, 2005 at a resolution of 0.5 feet.

Craig Martin (Parks Division, Los Alamos County) reported continued progress is being achieved in the burning of slash piles on County land, thinning in Walnut Canyon, and removal of hazard trees.

Lindsay Quam (Infrastructure Projects, LANL) indicated that the slash piles at TA-54 will be removed by the end of next week.

Sandy Hurlocker (Santa Fe National Forest) announced that the burning of piles in the Santa Fe watershed will be continued if conditions permit. Also, the Forest Service is prioritizing areas for potential closure in the anticipation of an extremely dangerous fire season.

The Climate Assessment for the Southwest project (CLIMAS), located at the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona, reports through its December 2005 Outlook that experts predict the increased chances of warmer-than-average temperatures through June 2006, and below-average precipitation through May of 2006. For more

information, see <http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas/forecasts.html>

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, January 25, at the EOC (TA-69, Building 33) in the Fire Tac Room (124). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.